

schools. Having said that, let me say that raising 403 out of committee would be a mistake. I think it would be potentially harmful to a great many students in the state for the reason that for all practical purposes, there would no longer be any minimal standards of education for students who are educated under the proposed law. There are essentially two provisions which would ensure or which would make extremely difficult the imposition of any minimal standards whatsoever. One, is the provision that states flat out that teachers do not have to be certified in the private schools. Therefore, as I read it, anybody who conceives himself as a teacher is, in fact, a teacher. That is a serious problem in itself. Secondly, one of the statutes which is repealed in this law, 79-1705, originally provided for inspections of the private schools by public officials to ensure that they were meeting minimum requirements. That inspection requirement would be repealed under 403 and as a practical matter there would be no way of determining whether minimum standards were meant even if you assumed that some of the provisions in 403 constituted minimum standards. So between those two provisions I think there are very serious problems with 403. In addition I would like to repeat again what was indicated by Senator Koch, that the major parochial school systems in this state did not support 403. Clearly they have indicated that the present system is reasonable and sufficient. Lastly I would like to point out that our present statutes at this time provide with regard to religious education, that nothing in the existing statutes shall be construed so as to interfere with the religious instruction in any private, denominational or parochial school. So there is no reason in my opinion why private schools could not be set up and why they could not teach or include religious instruction and I believe that in addition to that we should retain and maintain minimal standards with regard to the general education of these students so that they are prepared to go out and meet the real world as it exists. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Venditte.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think we will all well agree that as our children progress through their public school life or Christian school life or whatever walk of life they are entering into relative to their elementary or secondary education, I think it is important that we all realize that every single year that goes by that they are involved in that educational program, that it is a very formative year